

derful and beautiful, and its study enables us the better to carry out the principles we inculcate of Faith, Hope and Charity—to "cultivate an observing mind"—and that "Nature preaches to us forever in . . .

A GRAND PREMIUM.



Every lady wants a gold watch. Write the MAINE FARMER for particulars as to how to obtain this premium.

Home Department.

SING A SONG.

If you'll sing a song as you go along,
In the face of the real or the fancied wrong;
And show a heart that is brave and stout;
If you'll laugh at the jeers and refuse the

tears,
You'll face the ever-elusive cheer,
That the world denies when a coward cries,
You'll be the man who bravely tries;
And you'll win success with a little song—
If you'll sing the song as you go along!

If you'll sing a song as you go along,
You'll find that the busy, rushing throng
Will watch the strain of the glad refrain;
That the sun will follow the blinding rain;
That the clouds will fly from the blackened sky.

That the stars will come out by and by;
And you'll make new friends, till hope de-
scends
From where the placid rainbows bend;
And all because of a little song—
If you'll sing the song as you go along!

If you'll sing a song as you go along,
You'll see that the singing will make you
sing;
And the heavy load and the rugged road,
And the dim and the stripes of the tortuous
goal

Will soar with the note that you set aloft;
And the world will change to a trifling note;
That the world is bad when you are sad,
And bright and beautiful when glad,
If you'll sing the song as you go along!

—Philadelphia Telegraph.

THE SO-CALLED NATURE STUDIES
AS AN ADVANTAGE TO OUR SCHOOLS
AND TEACHERS.

Address delivered by Mrs. Annie E. Gray,
delivered before the Kennebec Pomona at Mon-
day, Feb. 28th.

The introduction of Nature Study into
the common schools as a regular branch,
is of comparatively recent date, and it
is but just to our educators and to our
children that we investigate the matter
a little before presuming to sanction or
criticise the addition of another study to
the course which already seems so full.

Head authority have those who stand at
the head of the rank and file of educa-
tion, for the introduction of anything so
totally different from what we older
men were taught when we went to school?
We send our children to school that they
may get an education; but what is the
object of education?

Proebel, one of the greatest educators
of our time, and the founder of the
Hedergarten, said, "The object of educa-
tion is the development of the human
being in the totality of his powers as a
child of Nature, a child of man, and a
child of God."

Pestalozzi, another noted educator,
with whom Proebel was for a time asso-
ciated, says that observation is the basis
of all knowledge.

Ralph Waldo Emerson says: "He who
knows the most, he who knows what
nature and virtues are in the ground, the
waters, the plants, the heavens, and how
they come to these enchantments, is the
rich and royal man. Only as far as the
matters of the world have called in na-
ture to their aid, can they reach the
height of magnificence." Here, from the
words of these three men—men whose
achievements make their words of
great weight—we learn the object of edu-
cation, how it is to be gained, and from
what source. Do we need to look far-
ther to learn why Nature Study should
have a place in our curriculum? If so,
let him to Bryant:

"To him who in the love of Nature holds
Communion with her visible forms, who
speaks

A various language; for his gayer hours
She has a voice of gladness, and a smile
And eloquence of beauty, and she glides
His darker moods with a mild
And healing sympathy, that steals away
Their sharpness ere he is aware."

And to Mrs. Browning:
"Nothing is small;
Not the hum of summer bee
Nor the sound of the spinning
wheel,
Nor the foot of the plow,
Nor the voice of the sea,
Nor the voice of the wind,
Nor the voice of the rain,
Nor the voice of the sun,
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THE MAINE FARMER: An Agricultural and Family Newspaper. March 9, 1899.

MRS. PINKHAM CONQUERS BACKACHE.

Four Women Who Owe Their Present Happiness to Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.



DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—When I wrote to you last June, I was not able to do anything. I suffered with backache, headache, bearing-down pains, pains in my lower limbs, and ached all through my body. Menstruations were very painful. I was almost a skeleton. I followed your advice and now am well and fleshy, and able to do all my own housework. I took medicine from a physician for over a year, and it did not do me a particle of good. I would advise all suffering women to write to Mrs. Pinkham. She will answer all letters promptly, and tell them how to cure their aches and pains so common to women.—Mrs. C. L. Wynn, Marquette, Texas.

I think it is my duty to write and let you know what your medicine has done for me. For two years I suffered with female weakness, bearing-down pains, headache, backache, and too frequent occurrence of the menses. I was always complaining. My husband urged me to try your Vegetable Compound, and I finally did. I have taken three bottles and it has made me feel like a different woman. I advise every woman that suffers to take your medicine and be cured.—Mrs. GARNETT LIGHTY, 612 S. Prince St., Lancaster, Pa.

I had suffered for over two years with backache, headache, dizziness, nervousness, falling and ulceration of the womb, leucorrhoea, and about every ill a woman could have. I had tried doctors, but with no success, and it seemed as though death was the only relief for me. After using five bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and four packages of Sanative Wash, I am well. Have had no more pain, no more trouble, backache or headache.—Mrs. CLAUDIA HALPIN, Cream Ridge, N. J.

Before taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound I was afflicted with female complaints so that I could hardly walk. My back ached terribly, and I was not able to raise myself up some of the time. I had no appetite and was so nervous that I could hardly sleep. I have now taken two bottles of your Compound and feel like another person, can now eat and sleep to perfection, in fact, am perfectly well.—Mrs. SUE McCULLOUGH, Adlai, W. Va.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound; A Woman's Remedy for Women's Ills

and get better returns for his labor? It is due to those impractical men who thought while the practical men slept or smoked, and who planted and experimented while their practical brethren simply cut and burnt.

Why do we no longer consider insect pests scourges in the hand of Providence, pests whose ravages must be passively endured, although they bring misery and starvation upon thousands of human beings? Because the much derided entomologists have taught us the life history of our insect enemies, and by this knowledge have furnished us the means to combat them or to prevent their ravages. Agriculturists would have little to fear from injurious insects or noxious weeds if they heeded the teachings of scientists; but one ignorant and lazy man can breed enough potato bugs and raise enough Canada thistle to keep a whole county fairly well stocked.

To the man who "sees no use for this new fad," as he calls it, because it is not taught when he went to school, and is entirely satisfied with his education and with the way he got on in the world, (it is to be hoped there are no such men here to-day) Mr. Lange suggests that he "awake off traveling in Pullman palace cars and revive the extinct prairie schooner; that he give his self-binder to his neighbor, and cut his own grain with scythe and sickle, as his grandfather used to do; for thus he would live up to his conviction."

There are so many good things in this valuable paper that I would gladly give them all, but must content myself with stating his closing arguments as to "why Nature Study should find a place in every school in the land:

1. It tends to make children healthier and happier.

2. It will stimulate their love for their country.

3. It teaches them to appreciate the poetry and the beautiful that surrounds them everywhere.

4. It will make them interested in the rational use and in the preservation of the natural wealth and beauty of their country.

5. It teaches them kindness towards animals, and incidentally kindness towards their fellow men.

6. There is no better subject for developing the observing and reasoning faculties of children.

7. It is a most practical subject.

8. As the most weighty reason, which includes really several of those mentioned before, we must certainly admit that man, who was created to "have dominion over every living thing that moveth upon the earth," should certainly have some knowledge about the realm over which he rules. If this was true at all ages, how much more important it is at this time in which have been achieved some of the greatest triumphs of the human hand and the human mind, triumphs which are directly due to our better understanding of nature.

Certainly no man can to-day claim to be truly and broadly educated who has not an elementary knowledge of animate and inanimate nature that surrounds him.

If all this be true, (and we have evidence of its truth from the best authorities) we must certainly admit that Nature Study is an advantage to our schools and pupils. Let us, therefore, as members of an order which stands for education and progression, encourage its teaching for our children, and let us, for ourselves, as we read the works of our best authors, take note of their import, and we shall be surprised to find how much this study and love of nature pervades them; and by giving heed to them, we shall find that we are "opening new and keener eyes," and we shall become better and nobler men and women thereby.

For the Maine Farmer.

THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN.

While looking out upon the snow drifts, one can hardly realize that seed time is upon us once more. But it is, for a chickadee told me so, two weeks ago, and those warm days last week proved it.

Now is the very best time to plant two kinds of seeds—"plant" seeds and "thought" seeds. The children are tired of the long, cold winter, and asking when the flowers will come again. Their minds are as ready for thoughts as the pulverized soil is for seeds.

Get them a box of dirt and some pansy, aster and tomato seeds. Let them drop in the seed with their own little bubbling fingers. Of course it's a bother,

but they won't feel an ownership without it.

"Cheaper to buy plants of a florist?" O yes, I know that, but you won't lose them so well, and you cannot buy the "thought" seeds anywhere, for the little ones.

When the seeds are nicely covered with their little soil blankets, give the child a brush broom and some water, and while he is sprinkling the blanket, plant a few "thought" seeds of absorption and expansion, light and darkness in his mind. Then, as you set it on the warm kitchen shelf, tell them of the necessity of warmth. Show it to them every day, and as soon as the first seedlings show their heads from under their blankets, you have a chance to teach them about coddledoms, the drawing power of the sun, the green coloring matter and many other things. All the time, let them feel an ownership and care, which will beget a love for the wee things. They will take much more interest in them now, than after the snow is gone.

When it is time to set them out of doors, no matter if the child is not more than three years old, let him help in some way. Give each individual child a certain bed or number of plants for his own care. No even mamma should pick a flower or eat a tomato from those plants without special permission. Yes, it's lots of trouble, but those "thought" seeds grow into beautiful "love plants" in after years. MRS. V. P. DECOSTER.

Young Folks.

A Jackknife, Camera, Gold Watch, or Bicycle, to every boy and girl reading the Farmer who will secure a club. Write the office at once for particulars.

THE CHILDREN.

There is such a crowd of you, boys and girls. You are thronging in every place; If we did not conquer you now and then, you would fill up all the space.

You take the world as it is, you boys and girls. You merrily laugh and sing, and as if there were not a fading time, and life could be always spring.

We send you out of the way sometimes, In the midst of your mirth and noise, For old heads ache, and old hearts fail, And cannot share your joys.

But the world belongs to you after all, And others aside must stand, That you may be able to do and dare, And be masters in the land.

You are so busy at school and play, That you have no thought to spare For the problems that puzzle the grown up folks, And make them gray with care.

But you are the people, my happy ones; And all that we do to-day Will be more to you than it is to us, For you will be the longest stay.

We are quick to give to you praise and blame; What will you give us, when You reach, at last, our words and deeds, In the time when you are the men?

What will you think of the laws we make When you read the records through? And the manners and customs of church and home,

And the cities we build for you. Boys be generous, girls be fair! We are trying to do our best; We are beginning some good, brave work—"Tis for you to do the rest.

Through misty moorland and fog-filled street, We are seeking for greater light; But for you there is breaking above the world A day that is passing bright.

Toilers are we, who are well content To work for your nation's need. We have been delving the gold to find, We have been sowing seed.

Goo! times to live in we leave to you; And rights that were hard to win; Be worthy of the better times, And gather our harvest in.

—Marianne Farningham.

Dear Boys and Girls: I thought I would write for the Maine Farmer. I like very much to read the young folks' column. My father is poor and I do not stay at home. I stay with Mrs. Levi M. Perry, have stayed with her ever since the 8th of last March. I like very much to stay with her; they are very nice folks, I think. I have 4 brothers and 2 sisters. Their names are Fred, Milo, Robie, Ray, Mary, and Ella. I had a

DOES COFFEE AGREE WITH YOU?

If not, drink Grain-O—made from pure grain. A lady writes: "The first time I made Grain-O I did not like it, but after using it for one week nothing would induce me to go back to coffee. It nourishes and feeds the system. It is the strengthening substance of pure grain. It is a package to-day from your grocer, follow the directions in making it and you will have a delicious and healthful beverage for old and young. 15 and 25c.

birthday the 24th day of February and was 12 years old. I have to walk about a mile to school. Mr. Leroy Perry, who keeps the farm, has 4 head of cattle, 4 horses, 4 calves, and about 13 sheep. They keep about 30 hens. Our school will not begin until about the 1st of May. Mr. Grey Small taught the last term of school and he used to lick the scholars very bad. I can wash dishes, make beds, sweep, wash, iron, wash floors, and cook a little. I would like to keep the young folks' column full. I will try if the rest will. Very truly yours, AGNES MCNALLY.

Dear Boys and Girls: I go out alighting and have lots of fun. One time I went and got some pussy willow buds and some alder tassels and some maple buds and took them home and put them in water and the pussy willow buds are most blossomed out and the alder tassels are beginning to grow long and can see the pollen and the maple buds are beginning to swell and are beginning to grow red. To-day there has not been a very good crust and I have not been out on the snow much. When papa comes home again I am going to have some apple blossoms. We have some tomatoes and celery all up and some pansies all started. School is not keeping now. It won't be very long before it is time to make maple sugar.

CLORA M. DECOSTER.

Dear Boys and Girls: I thought I would write for the Maine Farmer. My father has taken it for a long time, and I like to read the young folks' column. My school finished Friday. My teacher's name was Clara Patterson. Our school kept three months, and I went every day. One day it was so bad I had to go horseback, and then school didn't keep. We have formed a league in our school and I am treasurer. Each one that joins pays two cents a month. We have \$17.50 now. Well, as this is the first time I have ever written I will say good-bye. MINOLA L. HUTCHINS.

Dear Boys and Girls: My father takes the Maine Farmer and I like to read the young people's column very much and I will write a few lines which I hope to see in print. I have for pets one cat. His name is Tim. He likes to ride. I haul him all around the house on a little drag. He is a coon. I have a hen and she lays an egg every day. I sell my eggs to the groceryman. I also have a calf. If this letter is printed I will write again. Yours truly, J. MILDRED CARLETON, age 10.

Dear Boys and Girls: I thought I would write for the Maine Farmer. My papa takes the Farmer, and I like to read the young folks' column very much. My school is done. Our teacher's name was Mrs. Wright. I have one brother, his name is Edwin E. I have for pets a dog named Jet and a kitten named Teddy Roosevelt. I can knit and crochet and do housework. Good-bye for this time. GEORGIE L. PRESCOTT.

Greene.

Dear Boys and Girls: I thought I would write for the Maine Farmer. My father keeps a store. He has two coats. I have one sister, Maud. I have for pets a cat and a dog. The cat's name is Tiny and the dog's name is Pugs. Our school closed about a month ago. I have to walk about half a mile to school. I had two brothers that died when young. Their names were Archie and Harold. If this does not find its way to the waste basket I will write again. Yours truly, MYRA M. MULLEN, age 8.

Dear Boys and Girls: I will write for the Maine Farmer as I have not written before. I like the Farmer very much. I am ten years of age. For pets, I have two cats and a dog. Their names are Tooby, Tom and Hero. We have three head of cattle and two horses. Their names are Smut, Brownie, Snowball, Wilkes and Ned. I will not write any more this time. Your friend, ESTELLE S. LAWRENCE.

Dear Boys and Girls: I will write for the Maine Farmer. It is the first time I have written to the Farmer. I go to school every day there is any. My teacher's name is Lottie Coombs. I like her very much. I will tell you my classmate's name. It is Ora Overlock. I think she is a very good little girl. I will close now. ROSE ETHEL WEEKS, age 9.

Why Were Napoleon and King Richard Beaten?

Napoleon had nerves of steel at Austerlitz and daybreak at Waterloo. King Richard suffered the agonies of insomnia the night before he met Richmond on the fatal field of Bosworth. His health, low vitality, nervous and physical exhaustion were always the causes of lack of success in whatever you undertake. Weak nerves, low vitality, female complaints, insomnia and despondency prey upon the women from attacking their lives in work or society, or fulfilling their duties as wife, mother and homemaker. Nervous debility, shattered nerves and physical exhaustion from overwork, indiscretions and excesses stand as a stumbling block in the path of success for men. Absolutely the only hope of attaining success in life lies in getting back your health, and you can do so if you adopt the right means. You have perhaps tried to get well and failed. Simply because you have not used the right means. You have taken drugs and poisons which have done you no good. Why do you not try the wonderfully curative, harmless vegetable medicines of Dr. Green's 34 Temple Place, Boston, Mass., discoverer of that grand restorative known and used all over the world, Dr. Green's Nervous Blood and Nerve Remedy? This is but one of the many marvelous cures for different complaints and conditions of disease which Dr. Green has discovered, and the fact that he is a regular physician, a skilled and experienced specialist in the treatment and cure of all forms of nervous, chronic and lingering complaints enables him to perfectly understand your disease and prescribe his health restoring medicines to cure. Consultation, examination and advice are given to all absolutely free of charge. You are welcome to call, or if not convenient, write him fully and freely about your case and in perfect confidence. It costs you nothing to consult him and find out all about your complaint, and we assure you that you will be cured if you adopt this treatment by harmless vegetable medicines.

Saves Work and Worry

Neglect should never be laid at the door of a housewife. It may be she works harder than her neighbor, but doesn't go about it in just the right way. Her neighbor uses

GOLD DUST WASHING POWDER

and keeps her house twice as clean with half the effort. Gold Dust Washing Powder has given many a woman the reputation of being a queen of housekeepers. Do you use it? Largest package—greatest economy.

THE N. K. FAIRBANK COMPANY, Chicago, St. Louis, New York, Boston, Philadelphia.

ANOTHER GRAND OFFER.

Fine Silverware Free.

THIS SILVER-PLATED WARE can be used in cooking, eating and medicines the same as solid silver. The base of this ware is solid nickel-silver metal, and being perfectly white and hard it will never change color, and will wear a lifetime. This ware will not, cannot turn brassy, corrode or rust. We absolutely guarantee that each and every piece of this ware is plated with the full STANDARD amount of pure coin-silver. In beauty and finish it is perfect.

FULL SIZE.

All of the ware is full regulation size. Dessert-forks are specially designed for cutting and eating pie, and dessert spoons are proper spoons with which to eat soup.

GUARANTEE

We guarantee every piece of this ware to be exactly as it is described and to give entire satisfaction or money refunded.



INITIAL LETTER Each piece of this ware (except the knives) engraved free of charge with an initial letter in Old English. Only one letter on a piece. Say what initial you want.

PREMIUM OFFERS

We will send the MAINE FARMER one year in advance and the Silverware to any one at the following prices:

The Maine Farmer 1 year and a Set of 6 Teaspoons for the club price of	\$2.00
The Maine Farmer 1 year and a Set of 6 Forks for the club price of	2.50
The Maine Farmer 1 year and a Set of 6 Tablespoons for the club price of	2.50
The Maine Farmer 1 year and a Set of 6 Knives for the club price of	2.75
The Maine Farmer 1 year and a Set of 6 Coffee spoons for the club price of	2.00
The Maine Farmer 1 year and a Set of 6 Dessert spoons for the club price of	2.25
The Maine Farmer 1 year and a Set of 6 Dessert forks for the club price of	2.25
The Maine Farmer 1 year and a Set of 6 Sugar-shell and Butter knives, both for	2.00
The Maine Farmer 1 year and a Set of 6 Butter knives for the club price of	2.00
The Maine Farmer 1 year and a Set of 6 Pie-knives for the club price of	2.00
The Maine Farmer 1 year and a Set of 6 Knives, Fork and Spoon for the club price of	1.50

POSTAGE PREPAID.

This unprecedented offer is open to subscribers to the MAINE FARMER for 1899 and not to any other paper in Maine.

SECURE YOUR PRESENTS AT ONCE.

THE TRUE TONIC

is not a stimulant but a blood purifying, cleansing and harmless mixture of vegetable ingredients which cures disorders of the digestive tract and expels worms. It does not whip the system into temporary activity as most remedies are followed by an equal reaction, but True's Elixir removes the cause of the trouble and its tonic effects are due to good, sound digestion and pure blood, which follow its use. A favorite remedy for 47 years. Its popularity is due entirely to its cure. Ask your druggist for it. 35 cents a bottle.

DR. J. F. TRUE & CO., AUBURN, ME.

Two Exciting Games.

"Uncle Sam and Spain, or The Capture of Havana," or "Klondike or Bust."

New and popular games for old and young.

You want one or both and can have them for 10 cents (coin) each, by sending one coupon for each game ordered, to THE MAINE FARMER office with name and address.

A First-Class Checker Board with each game.

If there are children in your home send for two and avoid family troubles. Only two can play at one time.

CUT THIS OUT.

The Maine Farmer "KLONDIKE OR BUST" or "CAPTURE OF HAVANA."

This coupon and 10 cents (coin) will entitle you to one of the games. Enclose 2-cent stamps for each game to be sent by mail. Address Young Folks Dept., The Maine Farmer, Augusta, Maine.

Name.....

Address.....

Stamps will only be accepted for postage.

To Prevent Bad Spelling Free! Free!

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THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1899.

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COLLECTOR'S NOTICE.

Mr. E. S. Gifford is now calling upon our subscribers in Apicook county.
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THE LIVE AGRICULTURAL NEWSPAPER OF THE EAST.

The reduction in fire insurance rates in Maine will be fully appreciated, and while the better protection against fire has been the chief cause, the efforts of State Insurance Commissioner Carr have been felt for relief of the insured.

A voter has been arrested in Maine, and under the present law must be severely punished, for holding his ticket where those in the room could see it after it had been marked. It is a crime for an American citizen to glory in what once was called "a free man's ballot."

The death of Hon. Harlan Prince of Yarmouth is the first break in the ranks of the present legislature, and a number of members from the House attended the funeral on Wednesday. Capt. Prince was a cordial, genial gentleman, always faithful to duty, never shrinking from public or private obligations.

The itemized account of the Cattle Commission State Board of Agriculture and University of Maine are before the legislature, but where are the others? Let the people have the whole and know more about the expenses than the gross totals give. The information will help all around.

It has been brought out at the committee hearings that certain money lenders extort one hundred and twenty per cent interest because of a poor man's necessities and that thirty-six to forty-eight per cent is a moderate demand. The indications are that the legislature will pass stringent measures checking this practice.

One can hardly pick up a magazine but he finds it filled with threadbare deeds of valor, profusely illustrated, written by the "hero" himself. Without a great battle or long engagement the late war uncovered an immense crop of heroes who are now kept busy telling the world what they did and why and how they did it.

The heavy shipment of cattle from Maine still continues the farmers finding the growing of milk cows, veals and beef cattle profitable. At the same time there are sure indications that the assessment returns for 1899 will show a substantial increase. Farmers of Maine are moving in the right direction, and the farms will respond.

In the appointment of Senator Gray of Maryland, one of the newly created federal judgeships, the President follows the high example of non-partisan judicial appointments that scarcely any President since Lincoln has neglected. Senator Gray is one of the ablest men in public service and his selection will bring credit to the administration.

The tribute paid Speaker Reed at the close of the session of Congress by Representative Ball of Texas, was remarkable for the cordial expression of good will, and the fact that the opposition joined as heartily in the applause, only proved that beneath the outward wrangle of politics are deep and lasting friendships where worth responds to worth.

The full pages of some of the city press devoted to advertising the ballots for the March elections, very clearly explain the violent opposition to any reform. When almost \$2,500 are paid in a single city for local advertising and printing in one year, the pocket book of the publisher feels the wadding, and his heart is full of fear over any repeal of the law.

There will be no question over the wisdom and propriety of the nomination of Rear Admiral Dewey to be Admiral, the bill having been passed by Congress just before it adjourned. The confirmation of the nomination was promptly made. No one will complain at the honor showered upon the hero of Manila, who now outranks any other naval commander in the world. Honors in this case go where they justly belong.

Spain has lost Cuba and Porto Rico anyway, no matter whether she ratifies the treaty or not. But by refusing to ratify she can lose \$20,000,000, which will be so much the gain for us while we shall be saved the enormous expense of subjugating the savages in the Philippines, to say nothing of maintaining a government there for centuries. Their refusal will open the way for a speedy solution of the hardest problem now before the American people.

Massachusetts legislators have gone wild on licenses. Just now they are discussing a bill to license the egg man by compelling every retailer of eggs to take out a license, and make him responsible for the soundness and wholesomeness of his goods. All right in theory the only effect of such legislation would be to nullify the enforcement of more important measures. A general pure food law, broad and comprehensive, with penalties which could be enforced, would take care of the minor portions.

All indications point to very radical improvements being introduced in this State during the next few years, and the consequent rapid growth of towns and cities. All this means prosperity, even to the remotest producer. Hard as may have been, and are, the conditions, relief is to be found in faith, courage and perseverance. Failure will surely come to him who doubts, and in these days misgivings may well give way to positive assurance. The year 1899 is just opening, and its possibilities invite the attention of every laborer in every field. The one thing to do is to make a success of the next twelve months.

The Bangor Commercial is badly hurt because the legislature ignored the claim for \$30,000 for a new drill hall for the University of Maine, and thus expresses its opinion of the members. "But the legislature has among its members men of narrow mind, men of small calibre, men upon whom the spark of greatness, except in their own vision, has never cast a glow, and from such the University has been beset at every turn, and while its friends have cared as little for the snapping of a small cur, the barking have sometimes proved annoying." The "small cur" are those who oppose the granting of what the Commercial favors, and the Farmer would extend its sympathy to these gentlemen. The fact that the people of Maine will heartily endorse their action may help assuage their grief over loss of the Commercial's support.

Hon. Joseph H. Choate, the newly appointed Ambassador to the Court of St. James, in response to the welcome extended by the city of Southampton, gave utterance to the following significant passage: "Southampton has a special significance for Americans, as it was the point of departure of the Mayflower on the historic voyage which was to end in planting a new nation. It proved to be the first great departure of the English race from their island home and island life. They went to take possession of the continent waiting to be subdued and replenished. The God in whom they trusted, prospered the good work. They carried with them the English Bible, and the idea of representative government and liberty of the individual. Springing from this stock, a republic of seventy millions, allied in blood, institutions, interests and hopes of the future, stretches across the Atlantic the right hand of fellowship and is ready to meet the mother country more than half way in everything which will tend to promote the common good of the two nations and the general welfare of mankind."

In his eloquent tribute to Hon. Nelson Dingley, in the closing hours of the Senate, Mr. Frye epitomized his public services, setting forth clearly the real source of Mr. Dingley's strength and power: "The arena into which he entered is one where a man was only what he wins. He was apparently not well equipped for the contest before him, for he was not an orator, never indulged in eloquent periods, had but little imagination, without that persuasive, magnetic power possessed by some, was not physically strong; and yet, from the speech he made on the restoration of the merchant marine in the earlier days of his service to the sea, and his growth in influence was constant, until I think it is safe to assert as his leader in the Fifty-fifth Congress he led more effectively than any man has within my memory."

"He had the entire confidence of the House, it being well understood that he never debated any question without first having made himself master of the subject; that he never attempted any deceptive retort, nor indulged in any sophistry; never mis-stated nor distorted facts. He served on the most important committees in the House—on banking and currency, appropriations, and war and navy, and as chairman of the latter. The act known as the 'Dingley tariff,' both in committee and in the House, owed its success to his knowledge of affairs, his sagacity in management, and his skill as a parliamentarian."

WANTED, MEN OF EXPERIENCE.

The one reason why the claim is so often made that rural towns are wanting influence in legislation is for lack of experience, not ability. Throughout the larger towns and cities a good representative is given a reflection, whereas under the custom prevailing in the districts a new man takes each year.

"The trouble with me is that I am just getting acquainted with the way of doing business, and able to comprehend the bearing of questions, and how my action may be felt," was a remark made by a member of the present legislature within the past few days.

This man has been constant in attendance upon the sessions and committee hearings, but lacking experience lost the power of his influence while becoming familiar with the machinery of the legislature.

It is universally admitted that the real cause for the leadership of Maine's Senators and Representatives in Congress is to be found in the fact that they have been retained until their experience rendered them familiar with men, measures and methods. In no other way could Mr. Reed have been spoken of as the leader of the House, or Mr. Frye a member of the Peace Commission. It was this experience alone which rendered Mr. Milliken so efficient in securing appropriations for public buildings, and river and harbor improvements in his district.

This fact recognized here is too often overlooked in the selection of members of the State legislature from rural sections, in order that each section may have a representative during the ten years' apportionment. We are led to this statement by the charge so frequently heard, that a half dozen men control legislation. On the face of it this avers of undue influence, whereas, if true, it only emphasizes the value of experience. A man familiar with the machinery of office will always have a following. His knowledge gives positiveness to his assertions, and commands important positions on leading committees. This is inevitable, and also proper, and if the rural representative districts are to secure their influence and maintain their position men of experience must be selected.

One Senator from a small country town served two terms in the House, and will complete his second term in the Senate this year, and will any one doubt his ability to serve his constituents in better manner than would have been possible had he not had the training of past years?

The towns and cities realize the importance of returning their Senators and Representatives, and by so doing are able to secure favorable legislation, not possible in any other way. The rule has a general application, and if the rights of country towns are to be vigorously prosecuted, the policy of shifting members of the "general court" every two years must give way to a more rational method.

THE STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

A Bit of History.

Before the annual meeting of the State Board of Agriculture in January the Farmer considered at length the question of the legal status of the board, its powers and limitations, and indicated the increased work which should be given into its hands. We said then: "The State Board of Agriculture, made up as now provided, should be clothed with powers and given duties corresponding in greater measure with the position in which it is placed as a department of the State government. As now provided its scope of duties is narrow in the extreme, its responsibilities light, and its obligations scarcely defined. The board is made up of able men who are identified with the interests of agriculture at large throughout the State, yet is a body with substantially nothing to do."

The oversight of the work of all these societies, and the responsibilities going with it, properly belong to the board of agriculture, and there it should be placed. In this way all conflict of dates of exhibitions would be easily avoided without discord, and definite knowledge gained of the conduct of the work carried on. Every exhibition should be officially visited and inspected by a member of the board and a report in detail required of the same. Authoritative information would thus be available of the character and efficiency of the work as carried on at the fairs.

Our laws in these several directions named are seriously defective and indefinite, and call for such revision as will bring them down to the work as it is now called for.

1. The board of agriculture should be given broader scope and enlarged judicial powers, and its legal status more clearly defined.

2. All the organized agriculture of the State should be placed in charge of the board of agriculture and made subject to its supervision.

3. Provision should be made for the enforcement of the laws protecting our dairy interests, and also the laws against the sale of impure seeds and feeds, and adulterations of foods of all kinds."

To these declarations Secretary McKen took exception and while the subject was discussed informally at the annual meeting it was not thought advisable to seek any extended legislation. Had the members of the board moved in the directions indicated, and secured a legal standing with direct judicial oversight over the varied agricultural interests of the State the order just presented in the House inquiring into the expediency of doing away with the office of Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, would never have been heard from.

WHAT BECOMES OF THE MONEY.

\$3,500 for Farmers' Institutes.

In answer to an order passed by the Senate and House of Representatives, Sec'y McKen has submitted a lengthy report showing the expenditure of his office from the fund appropriated by the State for institute purposes. The length of this report forbids its publication in full, but we herewith present items of greatest interest. It will be remembered that the State appropriates \$450 to cover the expenses of the annual meeting of the State Board of Agriculture, travel and hotel expenses of the members, and two days' attendance. Beyond this the duty of the members is confined to working up interest in the local institute in their several counties, or speaking at institutes at the call of the Secretary.

In 1891, the appropriation for institute work was increased from \$1,400 to \$3,000, and in 1897 to \$3,500. All this while no change has been made in the law as originally passed, which called for at least two institutes in each county yearly. Here are some of the items:

Cost of State Dairy Conference, Bangor, Dec. 1897. \$245.65

Made up as follows:
Attendance of members of the Board. \$134.69
Hotel bills for party. 79.40
Advertising Conference. 26.00
Hall. 45.00
Expert Judge. 53.00
Lectures. 68.00
B. W. McKen, premiums. 91.00
Show cases. 8.00
Field Day at Orono, 1897. 14.00
Fancy butter exhibits. 5.00
Milk for separators. 2.56

Cost of State Dairy Conference, Portland, Dec. 1898. \$723.97

Advertising Conference in Fairs (one-fifth being in Wisconsin). \$135.22
F. O. Beal, expenses attending. 121.12
Hotel bills for party. 87.75
Expert Judge. 121.00
Lectures. 121.00
B. W. McKen, premiums. 53.00
Show cases. 8.00
Field Day at Orono, 1897. 74.78
Music for evening at State Fair, 1898. 30.00
Board of party. 31.00

Expenses of evening meeting, State Fair, 1897. 39.00
Board of party. 29.00
F. O. Beal, salary as treasurer for one month. 16.66
J. R. Atwood, expenses attending. 6.00
J. R. Atwood, membership in Workers. 10.00
Winthrop Street Male Quartette at annual meeting of Board. 20.00

Chas. D. Smith, pathological work. 35.00
Chas. D. Smith, medical examination. 50.00
Newspaper. 170.00
W. H. Moody, expenses attending. 50.00
Henry Goss, expenses to New York, with fancy butter display. 38.26
G. M. Goss, testing milk at fairs. 60.29
Legal services, 1897. 101.00
Traveling and personal expenses. 41.25
Miscellaneous books. 183.15
Personal and party expenses at institutes. 64.65
Investigating tuberculosis at Blue Hill. 64.65

The above are some of the larger items, in addition to the detailed statement of institute expenses.
Sec'y McKen also reports \$1000 paid Miss Winslow as clerk, (yearly), and \$86 for extra clerk hire. Postage for 1897, \$700; 1898, \$902. Express for 1897, \$324.48; 1898, \$131.68.

CATTLE COMMISSION EXPENSES, 1898.

Treasurer Beal of the cattle commission has detailed the legislature with presented and complete statement of salaries and expenses for the year and the same are herewith presented. The Farmer is informed by Mr. Deering that, at the beginning of the year, he and Mr. Beal on account of other business requested Dr. Bailey to answer all calls, and that the business of the year had practically been performed by him, the board meeting monthly for conference and the members attending to local calls. The salary of the treasurer is \$16.67 per month.

January.

C. H. Leighton, V. S. \$25.00
C. O. Barrows. 6.45
F. O. Beal, 4 days' expenses and services. 37.66
J. N. Deering, 2 days' expenses and services. 14.50
Dr. G. H. Bailey, 14 days' expenses and services. 182.00
Total. \$265.61

February.

Chas. H. Wells, V. S. \$ 3.00
Dr. G. H. Bailey, 3 days' expenses and services. 137.03
F. O. Beal, 3 days' expenses and services. 34.67
J. N. Deering, 3 days' expenses and services. 10.80
Total. \$185.50

March.

Dr. G. H. Bailey, 13 days' expenses and services. \$226.16
Schlotterbeck & Foss. 1.50
F. O. Beal, 3 days' expenses and services. 27.67
J. N. Deering, 3 days' expenses and services. 15.45
Total. \$270.78

April.

Philip Asch, horse. \$50.00
John L. Best, horse. 50.00
Trowell Crocker, cow. 50.00
Fred Bros, 2 horses. 100.00
Fred E. Lamb, horse. 40.00
W. H. Reed, horse. 40.00
Wm. H. Smith, cow. 25.00
Perkins Smith, horse. 30.00
Mrs. C. F. Varney, cow—1 dollar for calf. 26.00
Daniel W. Webber, horse. 50.00
F. L. Wiggins, horse. 50.00
Total. \$816.78

May.

Dr. G. H. Bailey, 13 days' expenses and services. \$213.65
F. O. Beal, salary as treasurer for one month. 16.66
J. N. Deering, 3 days' expenses and services. 19.00
Total. \$249.91

June.

Madison Bean, horse. \$50.00
F. O. Beal, 3 days' expenses and services. 40.00
J. Frank Hinton, horse. 40.00
Isaac Bros, 2 horses. 100.00
Fred E. Lamb, horse. 40.00
W. H. Reed, horse. 40.00
Wm. H. Smith, cow. 25.00
Perkins Smith, horse. 30.00
Mrs. C. F. Varney, cow—1 dollar for calf. 26.00
Daniel W. Webber, horse. 50.00
F. L. Wiggins, horse. 50.00
Total. \$804.91

July.

Dr. G. H. Bailey, 17 days' expenses and services. \$217.15
F. O. Beal, salary as treasurer for one month. 16.66
J. N. Deering, 3 days' expenses and services. 19.00
Total. \$252.81

August.

Walter H. Freeman, cow. \$38.00
Isaac Bros, horse. 50.00
Isaac Bros, horse. 50.00
Fred E. Lamb, horse. 40.00
Stanley E. May, cow. 35.00
F. O. Beal, 3 days' expenses and services. 26.67
J. N. Deering, 3 days' expenses and services. 19.00
Total. \$234.42

September.

Wm. H. Bailey, horse. \$50.00
Isaac Bros, horse. 50.00
Chas. F. Lane, cow. 45.00
A. H. Price, cow. 30.00
Total. \$175.00

October.

Dr. G. H. Bailey, 16 days' expenses and services. \$203.88
F. O. Beal, salary as treasurer for one month. 16.66
J. N. Deering, 3 days' expenses and services. 19.00
Total. \$239.54

November.

Dr. G. H. Bailey, 16 days' expenses and services. \$203.88
F. O. Beal, salary as treasurer for one month. 16.66
J. N. Deering, 3 days' expenses and services. 19.00
Total. \$239.54

December.

Dr. G. H. Bailey, 16 days' expenses and services. \$203.88
F. O. Beal, salary as treasurer for one month. 16.66
J. N. Deering, 3 days' expenses and services. 19.00
Total. \$239.54

Frederick Hill, 2 cows. \$50.00
L. R. Morrill, horse. 40.00
Total. \$90.00

November.

Dr. G. H. Bailey, 16 days' expenses and services. \$203.88
F. O. Beal, 2 days' expenses and services, also salary as treasurer for one month. 25.67
J. N. Deering, 3 days' expenses and services. 19.00
Total. \$248.55

December.

C. E. Hudson, cow. \$30.00
H. Leathers, cow. 35.00
W. G. Preston, cow. 20.00
H. A. Small, cow. 40.00
A. D. Smith, hog. 12.00
J. S. Stewart, cow. 35.00
Total. \$182.07

Appraisals.

C. E. Hudson, cow. \$30.00
H. Leathers, cow. 35.00
W. G. Preston, cow. 20.00
H. A. Small, cow. 40.00
A. D. Smith, hog. 12.00
J. S. Stewart, cow. 35.00
Total. \$182.07

Appraisals.

Harry Leavitt, hog. \$10.10
F. R. Morrill, horse. 20.00
Thomas Newcomb, hog. 17.00
G. O. Tupper, horse. 40.00
Greely & Peters, cow. 50.00
Total. \$142.86

THE LAST DAYS OF CONGRESS.

Saturday, March 4th, the most memorable session of Congress since 1805, expired by limitation and while a special session may be called it is hardly to be expected. This Fifty-fifth Congress began its session in a time that were a peaceful aspect and gave no promise of coming hostilities; it closes its labors in adjusting the country to strange new conditions created by war; conditions whose importance and natural developments may become still greater as time passes.

Never in the history of this nation has a single Congress been called to act upon grave questions of such varied significance. Early in the year the Dingley tariff bill was passed after a lengthy debate only to be amended later to meet the requirements of a national war. It has declared war against Spain and made the terms of peace, raised a powerful army and provided for its continuance, strengthened and enlarged the navy and authorized a popular loan of \$200,000,000, which was immediately taken by the people of this country.

It has annexed territory and provided for its organization. Hawaii it added to our possessions by peaceful annexation, as distinct from those that come to us as the result of success in war. When two years ago Congress came into existence the power of the United States expressed in jurisdiction stopped at the Pacific; to-day, Hawaii, Guam and the Philippines form a chain of influence that reaches to within a few hundred miles of the coast of China.

In the Atlantic, Porto Rico has become ours by conquest—no matter what that means in our code of ethics—and Cuba, apparently ours by responsibility. Truly the last twelve months have made a year of marvels, amounting to nothing less than a revolution—for this country in March, 1897, appeared indissolubly wedded to the ideals of a people who had found at home scope for all their energies and sought no foreign possessions—foreign indeed in every sense of the word to a nation based on representative self-government.

Under the trying ordeal following the destruction of the Maine, when East and West clamored for vengeance it did not bend before the passions of the hour to the extent that might have been expected. Instead, it conducted in the weeks immediately following this act was deservedly creditable and distinctly to the advantage of the nation.

When war was declared and constituents were clamorous for the fighting, to begin it was not stamped and after hostilities began it gave the administration hearty support, even beyond party lines. Not until the war was over did a vacillating and hesitating policy show itself. Under the stress of a great issue all hands were raised in support of the President, but when it came to fixing the policy for future years the hand of the party politician again became manifest, and present ends blinded to future contingencies. A long and acrimonious debate upon the treaty gave rise to friction between other nations and furnished the insurgents with cause to doubt the purpose of this government. It finally passed the treaty and while it accorded to the President for two years the military force required to garison our acquisitions and protectorates, it shrank from learning the plain lesson that you can not have a colonial system without establishing as a permanency a regular standing army. The failure to deal squarely with this issue injects such an element of uncertainty into the future that there cannot be the same degree of success as might otherwise be expected.

We are traveling a new road as a nation, and have been converted into a conquering and colonizing people. From this there is to-day no relief and the gravest duty resting on Congress was to establish relations and provide for permanent supervision of all new territory until self government can safely be established. In view of the enormous expense attending the increase of the army, building of warships and maintaining a form of government in all the territory seized, there can be no excuse for the millions grabbed for public buildings in small places and for dredging out creeks that only "drain the surrounding treasury." It is to be regretted that Congress did not refrain from this by itself a reputation for care for the public funds in the midst of tempting times.

Care of Orchards.

Prof. Munson has just sent out one of the most valuable bulletins issued by the Station, treating of the care of orchards, with directions for renovating old orchards and the care of newly-set trees.

LATEST LEGISLATIVE NEWS.

The bill to repeal the ten-year appropriation of \$20,000 to the University of Maine has been vetoed by the Governor and is now in the hands of the University Committee. Why this institution should be singled out for attack can hardly be explained. If the motive was to do away with the law governing the blow should be aimed at all the educational institutions receiving long term aid.

The bill to repeal the law governing inspection and analysis of commercial feeding stuffs was heard by the committee on agriculture, Thursday. These feeding stuffs are for farm animals. An attempt was made earlier in the session to amend the law by enlarging its scope to include other varieties of commercial feeding stuffs. This bill was strenuously opposed before the committee by Major Sidney W. Thaxter and other Portland dealers. At this time the same gentleman appeared to favor the passage of a bill to repeal the whole law of 1897, relating to the feeding stuffs inspection.

Several members of the Board opposed the repeal of the law and Sec'y McKen, and the whole question was thoroughly ventilated. Whether the present law is best or not there must be some law to protect the buyer. The committee also heard an argument by Senator Hurd in support of the granting an appropriation in addition to the State stipend to the North Berwick Agricultural Society and the resolve in favor of the York County Agricultural Society. Mr. Boothby of Saco favored the granting of \$700 annually.

Representative Deering of Saco and J. M. Deering of the same city, also favored the repeal of the law. Sec'y McKen said he had not discriminated against the society. He told the committee that at the last fair most of the cattle came from outside of the State. Mr. Light, a member of the Board of Agriculture, said the passage of the resolve would establish a bad precedent and other societies in distress might apply for help. He concluded by feeling like favoring the resolve in its present form.

Mr. Winslow of the board and Mr. Hinton of the Kennebec Agricultural Society also opposed the resolve. The anti-scalping bill promises to go through. Beal of Bangor, presented orders calling for a special committee on printing binding—seven members of the House and three of the Senate. It contains how many reports of the several departments are printed each year, and the cost of the same, and recommends to the legislature how many it is advisable to be printed, and further takes into consideration the necessity and advisability of continuing the office of secretary of the board of agriculture. This making its examination and is

The committee on education made a report Friday which if carried out will make a radical change in the control of what has been regarded as a State institution. It seems that the State Normal school for girls at Hallowell is managed by a corporation. It is a corporation maintained solely for a benevolent purpose, but the committee think the time has come when the institution which receives \$10,500 annually from the State, beside special appropriations, should be under State control. The usual revenue appropriate \$10,500, and resolves calling for \$750 for the escape and \$5000 for repairs on the building recently burned were reported by the committee with the proviso that the building should be turned over to the State and the trustees appointed by the Governor and Council.

The bill to increase the tax on railroads is being vigorously pushed and as vigorously opposed. Many not in any sense railroad men, are opposed to it, and must be hasty action at the close of the session.

On Tuesday, the great subject of taxation was opened by Mr. Gardner of Patten, who introduced a bill to increase the taxes on railroads. Following his mileage bill this measure attracted attention and was ably discussed in the House. The claimer of the bill was that the taxes on railroads do not pay taxes enough. Mr. Smith of Presque Isle took the sound position "that the whole tax system of the State of Maine needs a thorough revision, and in relation to railroads, but in relation to all other matters. I believe myself that there should be a general looking into the laws of taxation generally—into the laws relating to the taxation of telegraph companies, of express companies, of street railways, of insurance companies; and also an inquiry as to whether the vast multitude of corporations that have been allowed to grow up into the State and organize under general laws should not pay an annual tax. I believe there should be a looking into the laws which govern and regulate the taxation of all kinds of corporations."

"There is," he said "as I have reason to believe, a distinguished citizen of this State, who, I am informed, owns 195,000 acres of timber lands, and as a conservative citizen, I am further informed that the entire tax that he pays on this \$350,000 worth of property, more than one-third of a million of dollars, is less than \$300. Now I don't know whether those figures are correct or not; but I ask you if, in this general shake-up which must come in the matter of the revision of the tax system of the State, if the matter of the taxation of timber lands should not be looked into in connection with all other matters."

An order was presented which will merit the approval of every taxpayer. If the matter of the taxation of timber lands should not be looked into in connection with all other matters."

Ordered, That with a view to the equalization of taxation in this State, and ascertaining the just proportional part of the public burdens which should be borne by the various classes of property, rights and franchises, and as a means to the State which may not be the subject of State, county and municipal taxation according to their respective fair values, the committee upon taxation be and they are authorized and directed to inquire into the expediency of amending the statutes so that a tax shall be assessed upon property situated in unincorporated places at a rate equal to the average of State, county and municipal taxation; of changing the method of taxation of steam and street railroads, so that the franchise tax paid by such railroads to the State, county and municipal taxation; of providing for an annual franchise tax upon the capital stock of corporations organized under the laws of this State; of changing the method of taxation of telegraph, telephone and express companies, and of assessing a tax upon all sleeping

"Only the First Step is Difficult."

The first step in Spring should be to cleanse Nature's house from Winter's accumulations. Hood's Sarsaparilla does this work easily. It is America's Greatest Spring Medicine. It purifies the blood, as millions of people say.

It makes the weak strong, as



(Continued.)

CHAPTER XV.

MISS DORA THISTLE IS NOT INTERESTING. Alec was not mistaken in supposing that he could not escape the vigilant eye of the young lady from New York. She came for Farmer Fairley's mail the very next day, and he saw her standing in the little knot of young people near the door waiting for the letters to be distributed. Her name was Dora Thistle. She did not belong to the best society, but hospitable people had invited her and her widowed mother, with whom she lived, to their homes from time to time, and it was hoped that she would better herself before long by contracting a good marriage. Had it not been for her vain ambitions she would not have been a disagreeable companion. She meant well, was fairly intelligent and good looking, and unusually genial and free. But Alec had no desire whatever to renew his acquaintance with her, and prayed fervently in his heart that she might not recognize him.

He was helping to distribute the letters and stood as far back behind the tier of pigeonhole boxes as possible, not looking up, but working away busily. From time to time he gave a quick glance to see what Miss Thistle was doing.

The letters were all distributed. Mr. Higgins volunteered to Miss Thistle the Fairley's mail, and one by one the waiting group disappeared, but she did not go. She pretended to be looking at some mail, but Alec could see her eyes were fixed on him. He was getting tired, and at last he felt obliged to come out. Mr. Higgins went in to his dinner, and only Alec was left in the store—alone with Miss Thistle.

As soon as she saw that they were alone, she went directly toward the counter, behind which was Alec. He stood grimly back, both hands in his trousers pockets. She looked up sharply in the eye, came close up to the counter and leaned over it, so that it made a crease across the front of her summer skirt, rested her hands nearly at the opposite side of the counter and said in a clear whisper:

"Mr. Howe, you needn't pretend you don't know me. I recognized you at the first glance when you were in the cart yesterday. I heard you had left home. I am proud of you."

She smiled sweetly, and Alec was forced to smile in return and say something civil. He scarcely knew what it was. Again she looked at him with her piercing eyes and said:

"I am proud of you. He shuffled awkwardly like a countryman, as he felt.

"I think it noble of you to strike for yourself like this. You needn't feel ashamed."

She drew back a little and looked around the store.

"This must be a horrid place to stay in all the time. I am just proud of you, she said.

Alec thought it about time to turn the conversation and remarked that it was a pleasant day, though rather hot.

"I just adore the country," she said rapturously, "but I've been a little lonely till I saw you yesterday. I came only day before yesterday. Poor mamma couldn't come. I'm practically all alone, though Mr. Bentley is supposed to be my chaperon. But I shan't be lonely now that I've found you. There is a lovely wood back of Mr. Fairley's house, and I've already found a beautiful walk."

"But I am a laboring man now, you know, Miss Thistle," said Alec apologetically.

"But that doesn't matter in the least," responded the young lady, with condescending magnanimity.

"I can't leave the store, you see," Alec explained.

"Oh," she said softly, looking out of the door. "But you can come and see me Sundays. I am sure you don't work on Sundays. We can have all Sunday afternoon together, and I shall be here three weeks at least," she answered brightly and with such cooing good humor that Alec smiled and yielded.

His only proviso was that she wouldn't tell Mr. Bentley or let the people in New York know how she had discovered him. Nobody knew where he was, he said.

She smiled beamingly from under her graceful chip hat as she went out the door, and for the moment Alec was under her spell. She was sweet and clean and dainty, and he seemed to have a rustic's worship of those high qualities. She seemed somehow to be above him, and evidently she felt her power and meant to use it.

On Sunday afternoon Alec went. For the first time he was bitterly ashamed of his clothes. He had worn his short trousers, and how his fitting hat. He furnished himself with a neat straw hat, with a red and blue band, which he found in the stock of the store, but the colors in the band spoiled his pleasure in wearing it. He had stipulated that she should meet him in the wood back of the Fairley's home, and there he went to wait for her. But she was there almost as promptly as he.

"Oh, you're here before me!" she cried on seeing him. "I stopped to catch a butterfly. See!" She displayed a pitiable looking little yellow winged butterfly, which she had just caught. "I think these woods are perfectly lovely," she went on as they walked along side by side. But Alec fancied she was

careful to keep her skirts from contact with him. A silence followed, and presently she burst out:

"Mr. Howe, you don't mean to live here all your life, do you?"

"Why not?" asked Alec, with just a touch of malice.

"It is beautiful for a holiday," she answered distractedly, "but I should think it would be horrid to live here with these people all the year round. They're so awkward and dirty."

She looked vaguely away into a cool little dell, and presently sat down upon a mossy rock.

"Possibly they are, but I think I shall live here permanently if I succeed in earning my livelihood."

She looked at him reproachfully and said:

"Mr. Howe, they're spoiling you." She looked at him again for a moment with her clear eyes and then inquired, "You haven't gone crazy, have you?"

She was so serious that Alec laughed out loud, but she did not even smile. He looked at her and thought of Maud and of "Lisbeth, and thought how foolish a creature this girl was, how thoughtless of others, how inconsiderate in her remarks to him even.

"I think I ought to write to your father," she said after a puzzled pause. "I beg of you do nothing of the kind," he pleaded almost earnestly, and she promised to say nothing till she returned to New York.

They spent an hour idly rambling about, when she said she must return to the house, and Alec was only too glad to escape. He stalked moodily across the field, thinking that the afternoon had been a failure. Once he had been this girl's superior; now she treated him as a subordinate. He was a rustic, a countryman.

After escaping from Miss Dora Thistle Alec returned to the house, instinctively climbed the attic stairs and settled comfortably in a large rocking chair on the balcony.

As the light of sunset died away his eyes rested on the glooming valley below, with its church steeples, white and pointing. And he could descry the farmhouses with great rambling barns, and here a little clump of village, and there a red brick schoolhouse, while in between were smooth, mown fields and stretches of grain and vegetables, and then low level meadows surrounded by thick pine groves, now almost wrapped in darkness. And here below was the great forest he had visited, stretching unbroken for miles straight away, the forest that was sister to the mountains.

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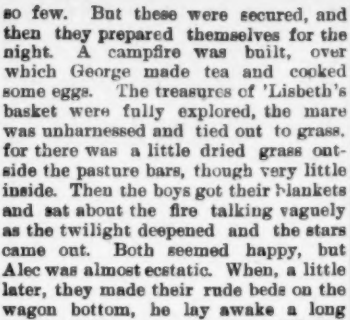
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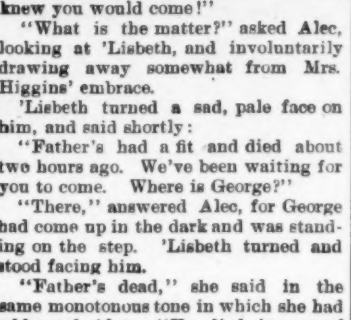
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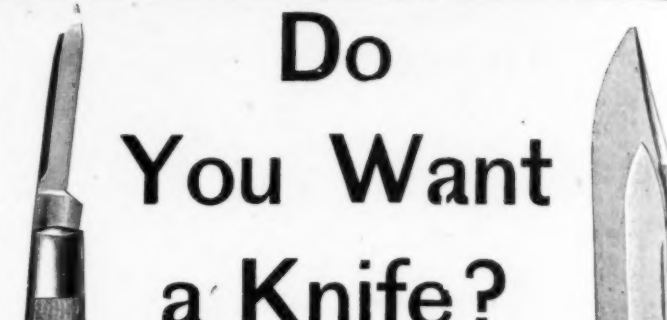
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A lady living in Colchester Co., Ohio, Mrs. M. Stanton of Blufffield, writes: "I had female weakness very bad for nearly three years. Had much trouble in getting my periods, and such dreadful pains in the back and top of my head (just as though someone was lifting me by the hair). Had no ambition, would not work, a few days then would have to lie in bed for a long time. No tongue, except the surface, I endured. I had much pain at monthly periods. I could not get on my feet. I was a physician as there is in the state, but had no case until I was quiet and off my feet. Then I had more rest and pain in my head. I began taking Dr. Pierce's medicine. I weighed twelve pounds of the 'Favorite Prescription' and seven of the 'Golden Medical Discovery.' Now I feel like a different person. Have no pain in my head, can do all the work for myself, and one child, an infant, is thriving. I feel it through God's mercy and your wonderful medicines that I am cured."

Alec, and he had done all he could to forward the advice of Lisbeth, to whom also he looked for a sort of protecting brotherly interest which is consoling to think of, even if it does not mean very much practically.

Lisbeth took great pains in getting the two off comfortably. Many a little thing was added for their welfare which they could never have thought of. At 5 o'clock in the morning the old, dirty, rattling wagon, with its rough floor that had wide cracks in it, stood before the veranda of the store, and on this special occasion the store door was standing open. But though rather ill looking, the wagon had good springs and good wheels, and the bay mare was fresh and sleek in the morning, and the two horses were smooth, mown fields and stretches of grain and vegetables, and then low level meadows surrounded by thick pine groves, now almost wrapped in darkness. And here below was the great forest he had visited, stretching unbroken for miles straight away, the forest that was sister to the mountains.

Here were wealth, success, activity; yonder were the great rich hotels, and there the railroads with their spidery crawling trains. If one could but grasp this wealth, this activity, this mass of life, the world would be conquered.

Presently Lisbeth came and sat in a chair opposite him, but she did not speak to him, nor did she address her; indeed he scarcely looked at her. Yet he was glad she was there. She had an atmosphere of home affection about her that comforted him and made him feel that Ashton was really his home. He had already adopted her in his heart as his sister, and he felt that she had rebelled against the relationship, though she gave absolutely no sign of her own feelings.

CHAPTER XVI.

HE GOES TO THE MOUNTAINS FOR THE CATTLE.

Miss Dora Thistle did not call at the store the next day, and the day after a bright young man from the city arrived and quite absorbed her attention for the rest of the time she spent at Ashton.

Alec was evidently a great puzzle to her, and she felt that it was best to let him alone. Besides, he had grown very stupid, and Mr. Melton, with his white flannel suit, brown shoes and very broad brimmed hat with a red band, was always interesting. Mr. Melton did not know Alec, and once or twice was rather puzzled to find that Miss Thistle was perched in his car; but he only stared at her and shook his head.

But before the summer was past the young men of the village made advances to Alec, and he got on to very friendly terms with those he met every Sunday in his Sabbath school class

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